



The Continental Chronicle

Valley Forge Projects Take Center Stage

On August 4, 2005, Valley Forge National Historical Park was host to distinguished visitors including Senator Rick Santorum, NPS Northeast Regional Office Director Mary Bomar, Montgomery County Executive Jim Mathews, and many state and local officials. The visitors came to hear the Senator announce funding to rehabilitate the Washington's Headquarters complex and to address congestion on the highways near the park.

The project in the Washington's Headquarters area is one of the first phases of improvements associated with the parkwide enhancement of visitor services described in the park's upcoming General

Management Plan. Because of its diminutive size, the Headquarters itself cannot be used for programs, orientation, or interpretation. The adjacent Valley Forge train station (circa 1911) is empty and lends itself well to becoming an orientation, programming, and exhibit location for Headquarters and the themes associated with Washington's leadership and the village of Valley Forge.

Valley Forge will receive \$2.326 million from the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill. The total cost to rehabilitate visitor services at the Washington's Headquarters area is \$6.75 million. The funding will be used to renovate the train station, remove excess parking, and make the facilities ADA compliant. This project also includes interpretive exhibits and interpretive devices in the landscape focusing on the leadership and management of the Continental Army, as well as George Washington as Commander-in-Chief. When the renovation is complete, the station will serve as a gateway to the Washington's Headquarters complex.

The Senator also announced that \$20 million was secured through the FY 2006 Transportation Reauthorization Bill for a key highway project. The appropriation will



In the future, the Valley Forge Train Station in the Washington Headquarters area will be used for orientation, programming, and exhibits.



Superintendent Mike Caldwell, Regional Director Mary Bomar, and Senator Rick Santorum at the news conference to announce funding for the Washington's Headquarters complex and for improvements to nearby highway interchanges.

provide part of the funding for the Schuylkill River Crossing Complex. The crossing projects will improve the interchanges at US 422/Route 23 and US 422/Trooper Road and expand US 422 to six lanes between US 202 and Trooper Road. Some of the worst congestion in Pennsylvania occurs on these roads and often has negative impacts on the park. The project includes the relocation of Gulph Road to the east, which will allow the park to create a new gateway.

Traffic Calming Efforts

If you have visited the park recently, you may have noticed the high-visibility pedestrian crossing signs in the crosswalks near Varnum's Quarters and Knox's Quarters. The signs inform drivers that they must obey state law by yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Visitors and staff have observed increased deference to pedestrians in the crosswalk since the signs have been installed.

In an effort to improve the overall visitor experience, Valley Forge staff and

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation officials have met to discuss additional traffic calming measures. The purpose of the traffic calming measures is to reduce the speed of vehicles in the park, improving pedestrian and bicyclist conditions. The possible changes include improved pavement marking, reduced speed limits, increased speed limit enforcement, and raised and/or lighted crosswalks. The park is currently preparing a funding application to help pay for the construction costs of the improvements.



High-visibility pedestrian crossing sign installed this summer in the crosswalk near Varnum's Quarters on Route 23.

Message from the Superintendent

We had a very active summer season at Valley Forge NHP. Visitation at the park and attendance at our programs greatly increased over the 2004 levels. Some of this increase can be attributed to new and different types of programming offered at the park, as well as expanded hours in the Welcome Center. We were able to provide these kinds of enhancements to our visitor services because of additional operational funding we received from Congress. A big thank you also goes to the Valley Forge Convention and Visitor Bureau for their successful marketing of Valley Forge NHP.

During the summer, three graduate students came to Valley Forge to work with us to write a "business plan" for the park (see page 4). The business planning process is undertaken to accomplish three main tasks. First, it provides the park with a synopsis of its funding history and trends. Second, it presents a clear, detailed picture of the state of current park operations and funding. Finally, it outlines park priorities and funding strategies. The business plan process enables us to focus on how to use available funding and staff to implement our vision for the future. The plan will be available at the park and on the park's website this Fall.

We are very fortunate to have received \$2,326,000 next fiscal year to begin rehabilitation of the Washington Headquarters complex. Since Washington's Headquarters and the surrounding area is the primary interpretive site at Valley Forge, this project will be a significant boost to visitor services. Additionally, the Senate authorized \$20 million toward modernization of the Route 422 interchanges that border the park. This will make a tremendous difference in relieving the traffic congestion that plagues area commuters as well as park visitors (see page 1).

Thank you to all park staff, volunteers, and our community partners whose unyielding dedication continues to make Valley Forge NHP a success!

- Mike Caldwell



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Better Communication Improves Park Safety

Valley Forge NHP's emergency dispatch service will move to Montgomery County (MONTCO) in order to enhance both officer and visitor safety, as well as improve the overall network of cooperation with other law enforcement and EMS agencies. Park radios operate on a different frequency from local police or emergency dispatch services, so the two have been unable to communicate directly. In times of emergency, park law enforcement officers have had to relay information through 2 or 3 people to get information to the correct offices. This kind of a delay in emergency situations is unacceptable and can be critical to the health and safety of visitors, staff, and volunteers. On one occasion the response time was over 20 minutes because there was no direct communication with the ambulance or the dispatching agency.

In an effort to put more law enforcement rangers in the field and to provide improved dispatching services, park staff looked for alternatives to improve our present situation. It was discovered that MONTCO operates an emergency dispatch center whose only function is to dispatch police, fire, and ambulance. Since most of the park is situated in MONTCO, it seems appropriate to work with them to dispatch Valley Forge NHP. By doing this, we will be able to coordinate our operations with any police, fire and EMS service we are required to provide to the visiting public, staff, and volunteers.

A number of issues had to be addressed

before this could happen. The first issue was the need for radios to operate on the MONTCO emergency frequency. This required the purchase of new radios for park rangers. One advantage of this is that MONTCO has several technicians on staff and they have agreed to provide service and installation of these radios.

The second issue is that all park roads must be properly named and identified by street signs (only ¼ of the roads were at the beginning of this process). The new address system will go into effect on September 18, 2005, completely changing some park residential addresses and most, if not all, of our park building addresses. A set of five maps showing new park road names and addresses, as well as the locations for new street signs, are placed in five locations throughout the park.

With these two issues rectified, the park will begin using Montgomery County for dispatch service beginning October 1, 2005. At that point, emergency calls to 911 and Ext. 1011 will be routed to MONTCO's dispatch. This will improve the park's emergency response time and communications with local municipalities. Park dispatch (Ext. 1050, 1055, 1068) will still operate weekdays during business hours if you need to contact a ranger.

We appreciate the cooperation of the townships and county in making this happen.

Hut Destroyed in Arson Fire

Valley Forge NHP Rangers found a reproduction encampment hut at Muhlenberg's Brigade fully engulfed in flames just before midnight on August 9. Local fire companies were on the scene within 15 minutes. The hut and all contents are a total loss. The cost of lost materials inside the hut is approximately \$625. The cost to replace the hut itself is approximately \$20,000. This particular hut was built between 1948 and 1950. Arson has been deemed the probable cause and an investigation is underway. The debris has been cleared and only a patch of dirt remains in that spot. The park plans to replace the hut.



VIP Spotlight



Name: Frank Resavy

Age: 77

Residence: King of Prussia, PA

Family: son, daughter, and two grandchildren

Occupation: Retired from the Navy as Chief Petty Officer and ran a plumbing company for 20 years

Special Interests/ Hobbies: Valley Forge and history

How long have you been an interpretation volunteer at Valley Forge? 12 years - working at the information desk in the Welcome Center and working on the Muster Roll.

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? I used to come to Valley Forge with my dog. When I retired, it was payback time and I wanted to help out at the park.

What is the most interesting thing you have done in your life? I am very proud of my grandchildren. This Thanksgiving I will go to Disneyland for the fourteenth time—I love parades.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? I'd like to travel some more. I've already been to 50 countries and all but two continents from being in the Navy. I'd like to see some of the ex- Iron Curtain countries.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Duryea, PA—its in upstate Pennsylvania between Scranton and Wilkes- Barre. Its in the coal district.

People News

Welcome to Noelle Gilson who is the newly hired Branch Chief of Interpretation at the park. She is a 16- year veteran of the NPS and comes from the Northeast Center for Education Services in New York.

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Maintenance worker Helen Seguin left the park to accept a position at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site effective August 14, 2005. She has worked on and off in both temporary and permanent positions at Valley Forge NHP for almost 20 years. We wish her well!

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We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to interpretation volunteer Carol Neff who suffered a stroke in August 2005.

Attention Volunteers: Save these dates!

Sewing Circle, Sunday, October 2, 2pm-4pm, Education Center - Bring your sewing, knitting, quilting, or any transportable handi-work. **Men are welcome, too - bring uniforms that need mending.** We had so much fun at the 18th Century Caps workshops, we'd like to start a sewing group that meets regularly, if there's interest. Park staff are invited, too!

Volunteer Meeting, Saturday, October 15, 10am-11am, Education Center - We will discuss volunteer issues, and a program will be offered related to Valley Forge. Learn more about important address and dispatch changes at the park (see page 2). The interpretation volunteers' meeting will following this meeting (see below).

For more information on these activities, contact Michelle Ortwein at 610-783-1044 or michelle_ortwein@nps.gov.

The Friends of Valley Forge



Did you attend any of the **"Lunch and Learn"** programs this summer? If not, you missed something special! The lunch-time programs were interesting and entertaining. The topics

were diverse – George Washington, "Acquiring a Graceful Air," "Life in a Hut," and several on the civilians around the encampment. All were held on Wednesdays during June and July in the Education Center and were open to the public. Most of the sessions were videotaped, and we hope to show them at a Friends of Valley Forge social in the near future. The Friends of Valley Forge wish to thank Michelle Ortwein and Ron Boice for their assistance with taping the sessions. Special thanks to the presenters this year: Nancy Webster, Dona McDermott, Ashley Hunter, Bruce Baky, Rick Wolf, and Mike Bertram.

The Friends will donate funds to provide breakfast for 250 volunteers on **National Public Lands Day**, September 24. They will also provide refreshments for the **March-In event** scheduled on Monday, December 19, from 5-8 pm. If you are interested in helping that evening, please call The Friends at 610-640-9681 and leave a message.

Board member Bruce Baky arranged for his

brother John Baky, Director of Libraries at LaSalle University, to visit and provide a **library assessment** of the conditions of the park library that is currently housed in the P. C. Knox Estate. His recommendations will assist in the continued preservation of the Horace Willcox Library collection.

As part of that preservation effort, the park's current **microfilm storage units** were in need of replacement; thanks to the generosity of The Friends, a new storage cabinet has been ordered.

The Friends offer membership on several levels. A big **"thank you"** to the following Sponsors of The Friends of Valley Forge:

Bruce A. Baky
J. Muellereik and D. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Beilman
Tom and Nancy Loane
David A. Belfi
Mrs. Anthony Morris
Natalie T. Braun
Richard A. Mulford

For more information about The Friends of Valley Forge, please telephone 610-640-9681 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

March-In Volunteers

The 228th Anniversary of the Continental Army March-In will take place on Monday, December 19, 2005, from 5 pm to 8 pm near the Welcome Center. Walking tours will be offered from the Welcome Center to Muhlenberg's Brigade.

Volunteers are needed to participate in the program, install lanterns, set-up, break-down, and clean up.

If interested, please attend the planning meeting on Saturday, October 15 at 11 am in the Education Center (following the volunteer meeting). If you have questions, contact Noelle Gilson at (610) 783-1049 or noelle_gilson@nps.gov.

Business Plan Focus to Improve Efficiencies

The purpose of business planning in the National Park Service is to improve the abilities of parks to quantify and communicate their financial status clearly with principal stakeholders. Completed in August 2005, Valley Forge NHP's business plan demonstrates the park's functional responsibilities, operational standards, and financial picture.

This plan identifies and documents gaps between current funding levels and operational needs at Valley Forge NHP. The plan's findings demonstrate an overall shortfall of the resources necessary to fulfill the goals and mission of the National Park Service. However, by undertaking this comprehensive review, park management has developed a solid understanding of how to re-allocate resources and prioritize work to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Valley Forge NHP experienced a shortfall of 13% in Fiscal Year 2004 (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004). The park required an operational budget of \$6.67 million and 82.4 full-time equivalents (FTEs); however, the actual resources available totaled \$5.81 million and 74.1 FTE. The greatest shortfalls occurred in Maintenance (\$301,503 and 4.2 FTE) and Resource Protection (\$277,232 and 3.7 FTE). This plan suggests new strategies and partnerships to increase the amount and impact of non-appropriated funding.

Protecting the park's cultural and natural resources, developing plans for sound management, and providing safety services for park visitors and employees will constitute the highest operational costs in coming years. Additionally, managers need to increase staffing in areas such as natural resource management, building maintenance, ground operations, volunteer management, and law enforcement. Recent improvements in operations have alleviated the intensity of shortfalls. For instance, dispatch responsibilities will soon be transferred to nearby Montgomery County, thereby permitting park personnel to address other priorities (see page 2).

In addition to recurring, everyday operations, Valley Forge has over 175 one-time projects awaiting funding. Stabilizing historic structures, improving visitor facilities, repairing the park's infrastructure, and restoring forests and meadows are included in the top priorities.

Successful partnerships with key organizations continue to provide critical assistance in making these investments possible.

Park's Top Investment Priorities

Expand Visitor Services at
Washington's Headquarters
\$6,750,000

Rehabilitate Historic Structures
\$12,065,000

Renovate Administration Building Roof
and Utilities
\$578,000

Modernize Interpretive
Media and Equipment
\$504,000

Install Fire and Intrusion Systems
in Park Buildings
\$480,000

Rehabilitate the Ecosystems of
Forests and Meadows
\$7,500,000

Relocate Maintenance Complex
and Ranger Station
\$6,100,000

Provide Interpretive Media and Facilities at
Muhlenberg's Brigade
\$413,000

Partners also form the core of many of the strategies to reduce costs, increase funding, and advance the NPS mission. Expanded partnerships will enable Valley Forge NHP to:

- Share the costs of maintaining historic buildings;
- Create new facilities for visitors and expand exhibit space;
- Foster community-based stewardship of park resources;
- Offer additional services to visitors, such as interpretive programming and recreational equipment rental;
- Raise money to protect buildings, monuments, and trails;
- Increase human resources available for education, maintenance, and visitor safety services;
- Broaden marketing and public affairs efforts; and
- Conduct research related to resource

management, interpretation, and administration.

A number of strategies to reduce costs have been devised to reallocate dollars to current and future unfunded priorities:

- Act on opportunities to lease park structures;
- Implement core operations analysis to reallocate funds to top priorities;
- Lease law enforcement vehicles from the General Services Administration (GSA);
- Reconfigure fee-collection staffing;
- Actively pursue improvements in energy efficiency; and
- Consolidate workspaces to maximize operational efficiencies.

The park already is executing some of these strategies to reduce costs. As part of the business plan goal to improve operational efficiencies, we are implementing:

- Closing Varnum's picnic area in the off-season (November through March); and
- Consolidating workspaces to improve efficiencies—staff members are vacating two buildings and will have offices in the Thomas House.

This business plan will be available at the park and on the park's website (www.nps.gov/vafo, under "management docs") this Fall.

Ranger's Choice: Book Selections

General George Washington:

A Military Life

by Edward G. Lengel (Random House, 2005)
In this historical biography, the author describes Washington's military career, including his exploits as a young officer and his performance as the Revolutionary War Commander-in-Chief. This book is based largely on Washington's personal papers - Lengel was associate editor of *The Papers of George Washington*. The book has some eye-opening revelations about Washington, the war for American independence, and the very nature of military command. This is a great read for military historians, but it will also reintroduce readers to a figure many think they already know. Recommended by Interpretive Ranger Bill Troppman. This book is for sale in the park's Encampment Store.

Lead Contaminated Soil and Old Buildings



Park Landscape and Roads crew remove lead contaminated soil. Note disposable boots, gloves and air monitoring pump for detecting the presence of airborne lead particles.

When you think about lead and historic structures, generally, interior lead based paint comes to mind. However, deteriorated paint on the outside of a building can cause high levels of lead in the soil as well. Reviewing the lead soil data on one park building prompted an Environmental Scientist to remark that he had only ever seen higher levels of lead in the soil at an old lead smelter operation.

Often, it is not just the deterioration of the paint itself, but the scraping and sanding of painted surfaces before applying new paint. If not contained, paint chips and debris fall onto the soil where it readily mixes in the surface layers of the soil.

Because lead particles are very heavy and sticky, they attach themselves to soil particles. Soil attached lead particles are normally not an inhalation hazard except in extremely dry conditions, but can be an ingestion hazard. Children often play in the dirt and can ingest lead from the dirt on their hands. Because of the hazard to children, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a Residential Limit for lead in soil at 400 PPM. Adults can also ingest lead if they eat, drink, or smoke without first thoroughly washing their hands and faces after coming in contact with lead contaminated soil.

It is also possible to track the soil inside the house, where it can become a health hazard, especially to children. Another source of lead poisoning can be vegetables grown in lead contaminated soil. Vegetables absorb lead, along with mineral nutrients, and when eaten can cause the ingestion of lead. We are only just beginning to understand the lead contamination levels in soil around some of our buildings. Currently, the park has three houses listed on the NPS Environmental Cleanup Liabilities database because of lead in the soil. During the next fiscal year, lead paint re-assessments will be performed for all park quarters, including soil sampling. In the interim, if you dig in the soil of the drip line of any house built before 1976, keep in mind that the soil could be lead contaminated. For information on lead and lead based paint, please contact the Park Safety Office at 610- 296- 2583.

Campfire Programs Offered This Fall



This summer our evening campfire programs provided a unique and popular venue for bringing the story of Valley Forge to the public. This fall the park interpretive staff seeks to capitalize on the success of this program by offering three more campfire programs. These one- hour programs will take place on the evenings of **October 15, 22 and 29, all at 7pm**. As with the summer campfire gatherings, this fall's offerings will take place at the Muhlenberg Brigade. Rangers Marc Brier, Ajena Rogers and Bill Troppman will present programs on Valley Forge related topics. As the season cools, consider bringing a chair or blanket and joining the rangers around the fire as they share some stories about the soldiers and camp followers of the Revolution.

Supporting Our Troops – The 18th Century Way

Muhlenberg's Brigade bustled with activity when bread bakers, women and children, and a waggoner turned out to support the soldiers Saturday, August 6. That day, park staff and volunteers ran four program stations from 11 am to 3 pm: *A Day in the Life of a Soldier*; *Women and Children in the Camp*; *Bread for Washington's Army*; and *Shelter, Transport and Supply: The Commissary and Quartermaster Departments*. Visitors to the camp thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Kids were up to their elbows in wash water and "dirty" clothes. Parents beamed as their children moved smartly through Steuben's drill. Other visitors were fascinated by the stories of the enlisted soldiers and waggoners, and were captivated by the sight of rising bread dough and simmering sausages in the camp kitchen. All in all, hundreds of visitors witnessed how camp followers and community provided valuable assistance to the Continental Army. They found that the call to "Support Our Troops" is truly nothing new!



Volunteer Christina Cassidy by the bake oven.



Volunteer Tom Kinter shows drilling to children.

Getting To Know Our Local Community

This past spring, with the assistance of several park volunteers, Park Ranger Ajena Rogers conducted a survey on her own time of outdoor recreation visitors for a graduate study with Stephen F. Austin State University. Every day, visitors come to the park for recreational pursuits such as walking, biking, picnicking, and to enjoy the beauty of the setting. Though a sizable portion of the park's visiting public, recreational visitors don't seem to attend the special events, historical commemorations, and educational programs in any great numbers. The survey was designed to help answer how we can provide better opportunities for these visitors to learn about and appreciate the historic and natural significance of Valley Forge.

The survey continued one conducted in May 2004 by Leslie Bellini, a park volunteer and graduate student at George Washington University. Previous regional studies show that outdoor tourism is an important rising trend. Americans are much more active than in the past, seek quality outdoor experiences and, significantly for our park, combine outdoor recreation with learning opportunities. In public meetings and focus group sessions for the park General Management Plan, many regional visitors said that they enjoy walking and biking in a place where they can learn more about

nature or history. We wanted to find out from the outdoor recreation visitors themselves what they like about the park, what types of programs interest them, and how much they know about park programs.

During the week of April 3, volunteers interviewed visitors at five locations with high recreational visitation. Response to the survey was overwhelmingly favorable, with over 200 people completing questionnaires. The interviewers all enjoyed getting out and meeting new people and the respondents were willing to participate, excited to learn more about the park, and enthusiastic about helping.

Results show that 73% of the visitors surveyed were from the local area, living within a 10-mile radius of the park. A majority (64%) came to jog, walk, or hike, with biking (17%) being the next most popular reason for visiting. About 33% visited weekly, while 26% said they visited occasionally. Most were interested in participating in interpretive programs, preferring programs 20-30 minutes in length. A quarter of those surveyed brought children age 17 and under along with them.

Are recreational visitors aware of the interpretive programs the park offers? From

the survey results, it appears that about 50% of joggers, bicyclists, and picnickers are aware that the park offers programs. That also means that 50% are not. When checking for factors that influenced awareness, location of the recreational activity seemed to play a role. Three other factors - the distance traveled, the frequency of visits, and the reason for visit - didn't seem to influence awareness of park programs.

"I would be interested in finding out what other factors affect awareness and participation in our programs," said Ranger Rogers. "My analysis of the survey is still incomplete. What percentage has attended our programs? What types of programs interest them? We should look at how the park's methods of promoting programs to the public can match the methods visitors indicate they use most to get information."

If we increase the variety, times, locations, and awareness of our program offerings, we may increase attendance. The park will then be that much closer to serving our local audience better. Part of our responsibility and core mission is to create the widest possible access to our park and its resources. We must be responsive to the ways visitors experience this special place.

Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator

Valley Forge National Historical Park

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www.nps.gov/vafo Click on "Volunteer"

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Generous Donation from Eastern Mountain Sports

Valley Forge National Historical Park thanks Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS), for their generous donation of \$1,250 toward trails maintenance. Over the last two years, the park has joined with Eastern Mountain Sports and the Montgomery County Parks Department to sponsor several successful National Trails Day celebrations.

EMS assists the park in building a lasting legacy of trails for generations to come by supporting education and preservation programs that help people of all ages learn about the many benefits that trails have to offer. EMS recognizes that today's youth will be tomorrow's stewards of the environment. EMS is committed to providing opportunities for people of all ages to experience the joys of outdoor recreation and to learn how to care for open spaces and our shared public lands.

The Park and Eastern Mountain Sports will continue to work together providing

opportunities to the public to enjoy the outdoors.



Eastern Mountain Sports station during National Trails Day at Valley Forge NHP, June 4, 2005.